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Abstract of the Disclosure

A novel embedded fastener apparatus and method for fastening components to the interior of a process chamber of a semiconductor fabrication apparatus. In one embodiment, an apparatus having a showerhead or gas distribution plate which is mounted to the interior of the process chamber using multiple fasteners which are embedded in respective fastener openings in the showerhead. In another embodiment, an apparatus having a showerhead which is mounted to the interior of the process chamber using multiple exterior fasteners which extend into the showerhead through the walls of the process chamber. Accordingly, the regions of the showerhead which surround the fasteners are physically separated from the interior of the process chamber.